

Proposed transition from Pennsylvania's current assessment system to a new assessment system beginning in the 2012-13 school-year.

This proposed transition is occurring because of Pennsylvania's adoption of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) which required the alignment of Pennsylvania's assessments to the CCSS. PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS PROPOSED AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE based upon the United States Department of Education's (USDoe) approval and/or alteration of Pennsylvania's proposal.

Subject to legislative approval, funding for three Keystone Exams - Algebra I, Literature, and Biology, will be restored to Pennsylvania's 2012-13 budget; therefore, the three aforementioned Keystone Exams are proposed to be administered in 2012-13. Following is a year-by-year description of Pennsylvania's PROPOSED transition plan. More information concerning the Keystone Exams will be shared following the May 9-10 State Board of Education meeting.

2012-13 School-Year:

- Grades 3-8 Reading and Mathematics PSSA based on the current assessment anchor content standards (not the Common Core State Standards).
 - These assessments will be offered both on-line and paper/pencil.
- Grades 5 and 8 Writing PSSA based on the current assessment anchor content standards.
 - Offered both on-line and paper/pencil.
- Grades 3-5 Stand-Alone Writing Field Test.
 - Offered paper/pencil only.
- Grades 4 and 8 Science PSSA based on the current assessment anchor content standards.
 - Offered on-line and paper/pencil.
- No PSSA-M will be offered/available.
- Alternate assessment will be administered in math and reading in grades 3-8 and 11.
- Alternate assessment will be administered in science in grades 4, 8, and 11.
- No 11th grade PSSA will be offered/available.

2013-14 School-Year:

- Grades 3-5 English Language Arts PSSA based on assessment anchor content standards aligned to Common Core State Standards
 - Note that this assessment includes a writing component, an area not previously assessed at grades 3 and 4; thus the reason for 2012-13 3-5 writing stand-alone field test.
 - PDE also intends to apply for new Annual Measurable Objectives (AMO) at the 3-5 grade span level, as this is a provision allowed by USDoe if a state adopts a new assessment
 - Offered on-line and paper/pencil.
- Grades 3-5 Mathematics PSSA based on assessment anchor content standards aligned to Common Core State Standards
 - PDE intends to apply for new Annual Measurable Objectives (AMO) at the 3-5 grade-span level, as this is a provision allowed by USDoe if a state adopts a new assessment
 - Offered on-line and paper/pencil
- Grades 6-8 Reading and Mathematics PSSA based on the current assessment anchor content standards (not the Common Core State Standards).
 - Offered on-line and paper/pencil.
- Grade 8 Writing PSSA based on the current assessment anchor content standards.
 - Offered on-line and paper/pencil.
- Grades 6-8 Stand-Alone Writing Field Test
 - Offered paper/pencil only.
- Grades 4 and 8 Science PSSA based on the current assessment anchor content standards.
 - Offered on-line and paper/pencil.
- No PSSA-M.
- Alternate assessment will be administered in math and reading in grades 3-8 and 11.
- Alternate assessment will be administered in science in grades 4, 8, and 11.
- No 11th grade PSSA

2014-15 School-Year:

- Grades 3-8 English Language Arts PSSA based on assessment anchor content standards aligned to Common Core State Standards
 - Note that this assessment includes a writing component, an area not previously assessed at grades 6 and 7; thus the reason for last year's 6-8 writing field test.
 - PDE also intends to apply for new Annual Measurable Objectives (AMO) at the 6-8 grade span level, as this is a provision allowed by USDoE if a state adopts a new assessment.
 - Offered on-line and paper/pencil.
- Grades 3-8 Mathematics PSSA based on assessment anchor content standards aligned to Common Core Standards.
 - PDE intends to apply for new Annual Measurable Objectives (AMO) at the 6-8 grade span level, as this is a provision allowed by USDoE if a state adopts a new assessment
 - Offered on-line and paper/pencil
- Grades 4 and 8 Science PSSA based on the current assessment anchor content standards.
 - Offered on-line and paper/pencil
- Alternate assessment will be administered in math and reading in grades 3-8 and 11.
- Alternate assessment will be administered in science in grades 4, 8, and 11.

PDE will schedule a Webinar to answer all your questions. A PennLINK announcing the date and time of the Webinar will be distributed.